

Application/Control Number : 10/554,417
Art Unit: 3765
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Remarks

Claims 24-46 remain in this application. Claims 25 and 28 have been canceled and their content has been incorporated into amended claim 24. The specification has been amended so as to replace the underlined section headings with the corresponding section headings without underlining, as set forth in MPEP 608.01(a). Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 24 and 30 have been amended. In particular, claim 24 was objected to as containing a clerical error. In response to the Examiner's objection, the erroneous term "*corrisponding*" has been replaced by "*corresponding*".

Moreover, claim 30 has been amended so as to remove another clerical error ("*od*" instead of "*of*").

Claims 24-27, 29-31, 40 and 43-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lonati (US 3924423).

Claim 24 has been amended so as to recite the features of previous claims 25 and 28. It is noted that claim 28 was deemed allowable by the Examiner.

The prior art is also silent about a circular knitting machine, comprising: a footing; a needle cylinder supported on said footing so as to be rotatable about an axis thereof, which is orientated substantially vertically, said needle cylinder having a diameter that is substantially comprised between 7 and 24 inches, and multiple axial slots that are formed on an outer lateral surface thereof, needles each of which is accommodated in a corresponding slot; actuation means for actuating the needles which interact with said needles during rotation of the needle cylinder about said axis for actuation of the needles along the corresponding axial slot of the needle cylinder so that the needles form knitting with at least one yarn dispensed to the needles at at least one drop or feed of the machine; and wherein said needle cylinder is rotationally actuatable about said axis in both directions of rotation and wherein said needle actuation means are adapted to allow the needles to form knitting in both directions of rotation of the needle cylinder about said axis at at least one drop or feed of the machine, wherein said needle cylinder is actuatable with an alternating rotary motion about said axis and wherein said needle actuation means comprise, for each needle, a sub-needle arranged in